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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,870	07/09/2003	Seok Kim	61610068AA	8178

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H.C. PARK & ASSOCIATES, PLC
8500 LEESBURG PIKE
SUITE 7500
VIENNA, VA 22182

EXAMINER

WEINER, LAURA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1745

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/614,870

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Laura S. Weiner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8, 16-18 and 21-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13, 15, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7-04; 12-04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 9-20 and where a fluorine-based polymer is not present in the reply filed on 3-10-06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there would not be a burden to search all the inventions. This is not found persuasive because the binder of Group I could be useful in a different battery system from Groups II and III and also can be used in the negative electrode instead of the positive electrode as required in Groups II and III. Group II is different from Group III because Group II requires the binder to have a particle size of 15 um or less and requires a viscosity agent to be present versus Group III which does not require either. Therefore, claims 9-15, 19-20 have been examined.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 1-8, 16-18, 21-30 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention and species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 3-10-06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 9-15, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 is rejected because it is unclear if the binder itself or the emulsion formed has the particle size of 15 um or less.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9-13, 15, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Han et al. (US 2003/0143462) in view of Suzuki et al. (6,773,838).

Han et al. teaches a positive electrode for a lithium-sulfur battery comprising a positive active material including a sulfur-based compound, an electrically conductive material, an agent for increasing viscosity and a binder which includes styrene-butadiene rubber. Han et al. teaches on page 2, [0036], that the binder is present 0.5-30 wt%. Han et al. teaches on page 3, Example 2, a positive electrode comprising a sulfur active material, a carbon conductive material, a styrene-butadiene rubber binder and a polyethylene oxide agent for increasing viscosity mixed in a water solvent. Han et

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al. teaches on page 3, Example 3, that the lithium sulfur cell was the same except that a styrene-butadiene rubber binder, carboxymethyl cellulose and PAA was used.

Han et al. discloses the claimed invention except for specifically teaching that the binder comprising a styrene-butadiene rubber has a particle size of 15 um or less.

Suzuki et al. teaches in column 2, lines 28-29, that it is preferable that the mean particle size of the particulate modified styrene-butadiene rubber is 0.05-0.4 um.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use styrene-butadiene rubber having a particle size of 0.05-0.4 um, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the particulate modified styrene-butadiene rubber having a particle size of 0.05-0.4 um because Suzuki et al. teaches that it is known to use a styrene-butadiene rubber having a particle size of 0.05-0.4 um.

Allowable Subject Matter


6. Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura S. Weiner whose telephone number is 571-272-1294. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Laura S Weiner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1745

May 1, 2006